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**Abstract**

**NOVELTY** - A new method to inhibit the expression of a predetermined target gene in a cell, comprises introducing an oligoribonucleotide with double stranded structure (dsRNA) or a vector coding for the dsRNA into the cell, where a strand of the dsRNA is at least in part complementary to the target gene.

**ACTIVITY** - Antiviral; cytostatic; anti-prion.

**MECHANISM OF ACTION** - Double stranded RNA inhibitor of gene expression.

**USE** - The dsRNA is used (in medicaments) to inhibit target genes, such as oncogenes, cytokine genes, Id-protein genes, development genes and prion genes, and in particular, the PKR gene (primary or processed RNA-transcript). The dsRNA is useful against human, animal or plant pathogens, such as viruses or viroids. All claimed.